

Remarks:

Claims 1, 2, and 4 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is being amended herein. Claim 4 is also amended so that it now depends from claim 1 rather than cancelled claim 3. It is requested that this amendment be entered and this application passed to issue.

First of all, the undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Hayes for according him a telephone interview to discuss this application. During the telephone interview, U. S. Patent No. 6,363,854 to Schweitzer was discussed. Applicant pointed out that Schweitzer operates in two modes. In a first mode, a timer is set and after the elapsed set time, the mine is disabled. Alternatively, before the elapsed time is reached, a signal may be sent to disable the mine upon receipt of the signal. Schweitzer does not disclose, however, extending the selected time whether before or after the selected time has elapsed. Examiner Hayes indicated agreement with applicant's position on this point.

Applicant agreed during the interview that the original claim wording did not clearly distinguish over the Schweitzer reference. Therefore, the present amendment changes the language "time apparatus adapted to disarm" to "time apparatus means for disarming" and also requires means for shortening *and* extending the selected time either before *and* after the selected time has elapsed. The Examiner appeared to agree that such language eliminates anticipation by Schweitzer.

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and early favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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